



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 12, 2009

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
Planning Commission

FROM: Planning Division, Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Joint Council And Planning Commission Work Session: Planning Division Work Program Activities

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council hold a joint work session with the Planning Commission to receive status reports and discuss major work program activities in the Planning Division, including the *Plan Santa Barbara* Phase III Work Program, the Alternative Building Height Charter Amendment, and Highway 101 Operational Improvements.

DISCUSSION:

Joint work sessions with the Council and Planning Commission are scheduled every six months. The Chairs of the Architectural Board of Review and Historic Landmarks Commission are also included. A primary goal of the work session is for staff to communicate with the Council and Planning Commission and share a broad understanding of the multiple priorities and status of other important work that is active, pending, or on a back burner. Adjustments in priorities occur when issues heat up and efforts are made to improve a program. The feedback from Council and Planning Commission received at these work sessions is valuable for staying on track or making changes as necessary.

The focus of discussion at this work session will be: Phase III of the *Plan Santa Barbara* General Plan update process; the proposed Alternative Building Height Charter Amendment; and the Highway 101 operational improvements.

1. *Plan Santa Barbara* Phase III Work Program Components
 - Charter Amendment & Ordinance
 - Economic Study
 - Density & Unit Size workshop
 - Land Use Element & Map
 - Housing Element
 - Adaptive Management Program

- General Plan Document
- Environmental Impact Report

Each of these tasks has timelines affected by potential staff reductions in Fiscal Year 2010. Staff will outline critical path items and tasks that may need to be delayed. It is recommended that the Council and Planning Commission engage in discussion and provide feedback for staff to proceed with the identified priorities.

2. Alternative Building Height Charter Amendment
Staff will provide a status report of ABR, HLC and PC review to date and key issues surrounding the amendment.
3. Highway 101 Operational Improvements
Staff will present status report of the project to date including schedule and budget issues.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

This is an information work session. Council policy direction or allocation of funds, if any, will be presented for action at a future Council meeting.

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SUBMITTED BY: Paul Casey, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office